

Union Township Environmental Commission

Minutes for November 9, 2010 @ 7:00 PM

Our notice as published in the HC Democrat and the Courier News satisfies the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act. This notice is also posted on the Township website, and a copy is filed with the Municipal Clerk.

I. Roll call:

Present: Michele McBride, Sandy Stiger, Bill Harclerode, Steve Hurford, John Wingler, Chuck La Tournous, Kathleen Corcoran, and Joshua Boyle were present. Chuck Neary was not present.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes from the October 2010 meeting were moved and approved by Sandy Stiger and seconded by Steve Hurford.

III. Old Business:

1. Trail perimeter Finn Road Park and Milligan Farms: Suggestion to form a subcommittee for trails. The trails still need to be permanently marked, they are temporarily marked. John W. will speak to the maintenance department about having ¼ mile signs created.
2. Recycling reference list for homeowners (Bill): Adjustments were made and Chuck L. will post the final copy.
3. Idling, Distribution of "No Idling Signs" (Bill): One sign has been put up. Bill will follow up.
4. Education forum on global warming: Will follow up further in January.
5. Hunterdon County Planning and Design Awards: Nomination of Stewardship Committee was already submitted but the deadline has since been extended to Dec 15. We will update the application in November to include Dr. Furlong and any other accomplishments.
6. Cubside leaf removal (John): No new news.
7. Fall UTEC newsletter (Chuck La T): Letter contains content, comments needed prior to send out.

IV. New Business

Congratulations to UTEC Vice Chair Michele McBride who was just elected to Township Committee!

Correspondence

Pattenburg Quarry (BTEC): Prints were received on the proposed filling area. Bethlehem Township sent a letter to the NJ DEP in regards to the water impact on the Mulhockaway creek.

Sustainable NJ Certification (Chuck La T): Union Township is the first township in Hunterdon County who has achieved this certification. There are only 67 other townships in the state who have obtained this certification.

V. Chair's Report

Review status towards UTEC's 2010 planned goals

1. Property Stewardship- work with Town Committee and Freeholders to reach a decision on either preserving or demolishing unoccupied buildings at Hoffman Park and Milligan Farms by December 1. After a vote, the decision was made to demolish the buildings.
2. Sustainable NJ- Meet the certification goals by December 31. Involve other members of the community in this process. Status, completed.
3. Communication- issue at least two public newsletters this year. Update the UTEC website to include more environmental information. Hold at least one public interest seminar this year. Status, partially completed. Invasive Species seminar was held.
4. Increase public awareness of invasive species, stream water quality protection issues and the Sidney Brook Water Protection Plan, through public education events including hosting a booth at Community Day (if held this year). Status, complete.
5. Environmental easements- establish a priority for which easements to track first, and then begin entering data into a database. Status, complete
6. Open Space monitoring- monitor at least an additional 6-8 additional properties this year and document for future comparative purposes. Status, partially complete. Send letter to county with observations.
7. Road Noise- restart regional efforts to reduce unmuffled truck engine braking noise from Route 78 with the goal of either increasing enforcement or getting at least one bill passed by the NJ Senate or Assembly. Status, continue observations. Sound level survey proposed.
8. Public Access Trails - establish a perimeter trail on at least one open space property this year. Status, completed.

9. Highlands- support Town Committee efforts and strategies to bring local master plans and development regulations into conformance with the "goals, requirements and provisions of the regional master plan." No status.
10. Seek out and apply for at least two grant programs in 2010. Select grants that that bring value to Union Township residents at minimal to no additional cost. Status, partially completed. Grant for Milligan Farm.
11. Hold an annual well test day utilizing the help of the SBWA. Status, completed.

VI. Reports of Subcommittees

Open Space (Sandy Stiger, Chuck Neary): No new news.

Property Stewardship (Michele McBride): No new news

Hoffman Park house:

Hoffman Park south barn:

Hoffman Park north barns:

Milligan Farms house:

Planning Board Report (Kathleen Corcoran): Resolution passed to dismiss the Shell gas station application.

Road Noise (Bill Harclerode): The Road Noise Group plans to send letters to all municipalities in NJ asking for their support to stop unmuffled engine braking noise. We obtained a noise meter. Bill will contact Josh about taking sound levels.

Communication / Education (Michele Mc Bride, Chuck La Tournous): Fall newsletter. Michele advised that the county printing department would like to print the news letter. This will bring a cost saving as they will be used as a shared service.

Sidney Brook Project 319h Grant (Chuck Neary, Bill Harclerode, Michele McBride): Public comment period for Watershed Protection Plan is ongoing. A public meeting is planned for our next UTEC meeting on December 14th at 7 PM. Need to publicize.

-The draft Watershed Protection Plan is now available for public review and comments through November 15 (ad was posted in Democrat and also on our web site). Need to arrange for someone so handle pubic requests for the report during office hours (Bill).

-Public meeting is tentatively planned at our UTEC December 14 meeting.

- A “no cost” time extension request was sent to DEP.
- Status of riparian restoration demonstration project at Milligan property w/NJWSA (Skip):

UTC Highlands Committee (Kathy Corcoran, Bill Harclerode): No new news.

Sustainable NJ Certification (C. La Tournous):

We have been certified by Sustainable Jersey as Hunterdon County’s first sustainable community. We were awarded a total of 165 points, which earned us Bronze Level status.

Environmental Easement Database (Michele): Database contains all easements that are on the tax maps. Michele will send a letter to ANJEC for grant to finish the database.

VII. Hearing of Citizens:

VIII. Adjournment

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Josh Boyle